

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by the Kim patent. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

The Kim patent discloses rotating a wash tub at a **same speed** in each of a plurality of dehydrations cycles. In contrast, claim 1 has been amended to recite dehydrating cloth “by continually rotating a washing tub at an increasing dehydration speed,” wherein each repeated dehydration of the cloth includes “pre-dehydrating the cloth by rotating the **stopped** washing tub at a designated dehydration speed.” The Kim patent does not disclose stopping its tube in the pre-hydrating phase of each dehydration of its cloth.

Moreover, claim 1 recites that “the pre-dehydration speed of the washing tub in each of the repeated dehydrations of the cloth is higher than the pre-dehydration speed of the washing tub in a preceding dehydration of the cloth.” The Kim patent discloses that each of its dehydration cycles is performed at a same speed and thus does not disclose these additional features of claim 1.

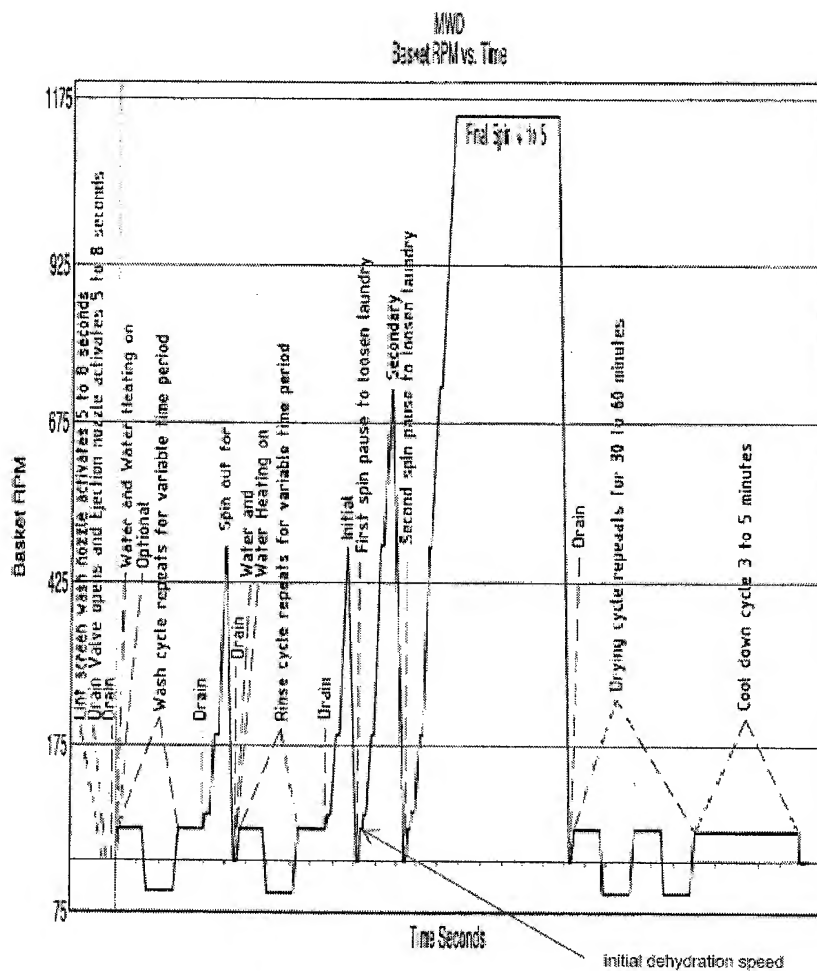
Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that the Kim patent does not anticipate claim 1 or any of its dependent claims. Withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Kim-Slutsky combination. Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 5 on grounds that the Slutsky publication does not teach or suggest the features of base claim 1 missing from the Kim patent.

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The Slutsky patent discloses that each of a repeated number dehydrations is performed at a speed higher than an initial dehydration speed of a washing tub. (Fig 8) But, "the initial dehydration(lower)" marked in Fig.8 does not correspond to pre-dehydration step recited in claim 1, because the initial dehydration marked in fig.8 does not involve the washing tub rotating from a stopped condition.

Furthermore, in the second dehydration in fig.8, the point marked as "initial dehydration(higher)" does not correspond to the pre-dehydration speed cited in claim 1. It should be corrected as Figure A below.



Moreover, the initial dehydration speed in Fig. 8 for the second dehydration is not higher than that of the first dehydration as required by claim 1.

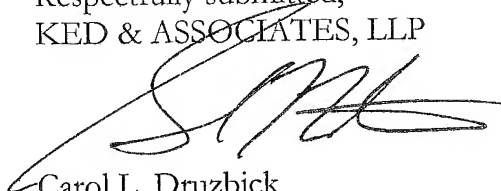
Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 5 are allowable over a Kim-Shutsky combination.

The remaining rejections are traversed on grounds that the secondary references of record do not teach or suggest the features added by amendment to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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